

REMEDICATION AND REDEVELOPMENT (RR) NEWS FROM WISCONSIN DNR
October 12, 2001

FOX RIVER AND GREEN BAY CLEANUP PLAN PROPOSED

In an October 2 press release DNR and EPA Region 5 announced completion of the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study, Risk Assessment and Proposed Remedial Action Plan for remediation of the Lower Fox River and Green Bay. The plan proposes the removal of approximately 7.25 million cubic yards of contaminated sediment containing over 29,200 kilograms of PCBs from the Lower Fox River, using environmental dredging techniques that minimize adverse environmental impacts, including resuspension of sediment during dredging. The dredging will take place in Little Lake Butte des Morts and from Little Rapids to the river mouth at Green Bay. The proposed plan utilizes monitored natural recovery of the residual PCB contamination remaining in dredged areas and in undisturbed areas where no dredging is proposed. The public comment period will run from October 5 to December 7, 2001. See this web page for more information, or to find out how to comment.
<http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/water/wm/lowerfox/proplan.html>

COMMERCE BROWNFIELDS GRANTS AVAILABLE

The Dept. of Commerce has announced that the next round of Brownfields grants will be due November 21, 2001. These grants are available to businesses, local governments, and non-profit organization to pay for environmental remediation and redevelopment activities at brownfield properties. The application is available on their web site at <http://www.commerce.state.wi.us/CD/CD-bfi-grants.html> Commerce is hosting video-conference training for potential applicants on October 17 in Milwaukee, Stevens Point, Eau Claire and Madison. For more information on these grants contact Jason Scott at (608) 261-7714.

DEADLINE FOR 2002 NATIONAL BROWNFIELDS ASSESSMENT DEMONSTRATION PILOTS

EPA has announced millions of dollars in federal financial assistance available to communities for brownfields. The Brownfields Assessment Pilot grants can be used for site assessments, environmental investigation, redevelopment planning and other activities at brownfield sites. EPA expects to select up to 38 additional national brownfields assessment pilots by April 2002. The deadline for new proposals for the 2002 assessment pilots is December 10, 2001. Each selected pilot will receive up to \$200,000 over two years and an additional \$50,000 may be awarded to assess the contamination of a brownfields site(s) that is or will be used for greenspace purposes. EPA has also announced availability of other brownfield grants including Supplemental Assistance to the National Brownfields Assessment Demonstration Pilots and Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund Pilots. If communities are interested in applying for an EPA brownfields grant, we encourage you to contact the DNR's Remediation and Redevelopment program for assistance with your application, please call Anna Thomas, DNR Brownfields Financial Specialist, at (608) 264-6007. For more information and the proposal guidelines visit this EPA web page - <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/>

NEW RR PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

These new publications are available on the RR web site (see "What's New?") at <http://www.dnr.state.wi.us/org/aw/rr/index.htm>
- "Brownfields Initiatives In The 2001-2003 State Budget" (RR-672)

summarizes changes, improvements and new programs related to brownfields programs. Please contact Jessica Milz at milzj@dnr.state.wi.us if you have questions.

- "Application of Soil Performance Standards Guidance" (RR-676) answers the question, "What level of soil contamination is required to be addressed, and hence, could be addressed through the use of a soil performance standard at closure?" The guidance supplements publication RR-528, "Interim Guidance on Soil Performance Standards". Please contact Terry Evanston at evanst@dnr.state.wi.us if you have questions.

- "What Landowners Should Know: Information About Using Natural Attenuation To Clean Up Contaminated Groundwater" (# RR-671) addresses the requirement in NR 726.05(3)(a)4.g., (effective Nov. 1) that requires responsible parties, at the time they request closure, to send a DNR fact sheet on natural attenuation, along with letters explaining groundwater contamination, to all landowners affected by groundwater contamination that has migrated from the responsible party's property. Copies of this fact sheet are available at DNR regional offices or you can download the fact sheet from our web site.

- The September edition of "ReNews", the RR Program quarterly newsletter, is also available on our "What's New?" web page.

CLARIFICATION - SUBMITTAL OF CASE CLOSURE REQUESTS

In the September 27 issue of "RR News from DNR" we said that after the groundwater GIS Registry for Closed Remediation sites rules become effective on November 1, 2001, responsible parties (RPs) and consultants should allow an extra 30 days before submitting the "Case Summary and Close Out Form" if groundwater contamination has crossed the property line and is still above the enforcement standard. However, under the new rules consultants and responsible parties do not need to wait before submitting closure requests. They only need to remember that DNR and the Dept. of Commerce will not begin their formal closure review in these cases until the affected neighbors have had at least 30 days to respond after written notice from the RP. This written notice must inform affected neighbors of a pending case closure request, of the groundwater contamination under their properties, and notify them that all affected properties will be shown on the GIS Registry of Closed Remediation Sites. The affected neighbors then have 30 days to provide technical information to DNR or Commerce if they wish to show that natural attenuation closure may not be appropriate. The RP must include copies of these letters to affected neighbors in the case closure request.

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